



# Dawson County Schools Virtual Academy

6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE PRIOR  
TO THE FIRST DAY OF EACH SEMESTER

## Welcome to Virtual Learning!

Dawson County Virtual Academy is an extension of our middle school, junior high, and high school. Our vision is to provide an educational experience through innovative opportunities on a digital platform. Students who are successful in virtual learning must be motivated, organized, and self-managed. Acceptance into the virtual academy program is required. After reviewing the criteria, time commitment, and expectations, interested families should click [here](#) and complete the application.

This program requires a significant commitment from parents/guardians, so please read all the details in this document.



## Eligibility Criteria

Virtual learning is not optimal for every student. Some students do not thrive academically, socially, or emotionally in the digital learning environment. Acceptance into the program will be based on the following:

Prior year academic success, including course completion, grades, and credits earned.

High school students must be on track to graduate with their 4-year cohort.

Satisfactory attendance and discipline records from the previous school year will be considered.

Reliable Internet access is required to participate in online learning. A district-issued device is available for each student.

Click [HERE](#) to complete the application for the Virtual Academy



Students enrolled in the virtual academy will be able to participate in after-school athletics and extracurricular activities under the Georgia High School Association (GHSA).



## Getting Started

Pick up an iPad at your child's home school. Contact your home school to communicate the date, time, and instructions for pick up.

Familiarize yourself with the online learning platform. Click [HERE](#) to view the Edgenuity Student Experience video.

Before the start of the semester, parents will receive an email that includes directions for an orientation with the online advisor.

The online advisor will provide information about when classes begin.

## Edgenuity Platform & Time Commitment

Students will utilize an online learning platform called Imagine Learning (Edgenuity). The program offers a standards-aligned video-based curriculum for middle and high school learning environments.

Grades and time usage reports are generated daily and can be viewed by school designees, parents, and students. Edgenuity tracks student mastery and progress for the work completed (Overall Grade) and formulates a grade based on where the student should be on the pacing guide for a typical 18-week course schedule (Actual Grade). The **Actual Grade** will be the course grade that is entered into PowerSchool.

Although classes are designed for self-pacing, it is recommended students commit a minimum of 4 hours each day to active learning in the Edgenuity platform.

Coursework will be available 24/7; however, students are not expected to work on weekends or school holidays.

Parents and students will have access to a staff member designated to review any areas of concern, celebrate successes, and answer questions.

## Expectations & Continuation

Students are expected to commit to the virtual program for an entire semester. Families must be confident in their decision to enroll in the Virtual Academy.

To continue in the virtual academy program, students must maintain a minimum average of 70% in each class for every 9-week grading period. Students (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) who are unsuccessful will return to their base school. Students (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) who are unsuccessful will complete the semester at Hightower Academy, located in the technology building.

Students must secure reliable Internet access. A lack of Internet access will not excuse a student from completing coursework.

Families should commit to supporting the student by setting up a workspace, creating a daily schedule, and monitoring students' progress. Parents and guardians will receive weekly updates via email and access report cards using the parent portal in PowerSchool.

Academic achievement and pace in the virtual setting will define attendance requirements. The system cannot waive truancy laws, and parents who do not consistently ensure their students meet the attendance guidelines will be subject to the standard truancy consequences.

Students must abide by Dawson County Schools Code of Conduct while participating in the Virtual Academy.

Parent/guardian understands their student must participate in required state and district assessments. These assessments will be outlined at the beginning of the program and may include options to take assessments at home or school.

Click [HERE](#) for listings of course offerings.

Click [HERE](#) for Tips to Help Your Student Succeed.

# School Counselor & SEL Support

The school counselor will be available to virtual students to assist with social-emotional needs, advisement, and referrals for outside support. Virtual students will have the same opportunity as in-person students to participate in guidance, character education, and social-emotional lessons. The online learning advisor will provide instructions for accessing these opportunities.

## Suggestions for Success

- ✓ Designate a space for learning that will have limited distractions. A desk or table (flat surface) works best. Trying to work while lounging on the sofa, in a comfy recliner, or in bed leads to distractions such as tv, video games, and naps.
- ✓ Create a daily schedule and stick to it. The routine of an established start time, duration of time to spend in the online class (approximately 1 hour per subject), lunch and short break schedule, and a stop time helps keep the student on track and keep order at home.
- ✓ Set ground rules for the 10-minute breaks, such as no games or other technology that may lead to extended break times. Make sure the work schedule for the day includes time in every class.
- ✓ It's tempting for students to work all day in the class(es) they enjoy the most. This practice can increase stress when they realize they are far behind in the other class(es). Maintain regular communication with the online learning advisor.
- ✓ Regularly monitor your child's online progress and communicate weekly with the online learning advisor.



## Specialized Services



**GIFTED:** Students eligible for gifted services will receive supplemented instruction to the Edgenuity curriculum. Accelerated courses are not available online for students in grades 6-8; however, the courses are self-paced. Students who complete a class early, at an accelerated pace, may have the option to enroll in the next sequential course. This should be discussed with the online learning advisor. Several Advanced Placement course options are available for grades 9-12 students.

**ESOL:** Students eligible for language services will receive support through self-paced online language programs. An ESOL teacher will monitor progress and consult with the online learning advisor, students, and parents.

**IEP:** Students with an Individualized Education Plan should consider the independent nature of online instruction when determining if Edgenuity is the most appropriate fit for the student. The Office of Exceptional Children will work with each student with an active IEP to provide a case manager, supports, and a Digital Service Plan.

# Online Learning Advisor & Counselor Contacts

Each school has designated advisors to assist students who participate in online learning. These advisors will be the main point of contact for student/parent support and questions.

## **Dawson County Middle School**

Ms. Cindy Bennett  
[cindybennett@dawson.k12.ga.us](mailto:cindybennett@dawson.k12.ga.us)  
(706) 265 – 4849 Ext. 1306

Mrs. Gabrielle Tracchio (Counselor)  
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(706) 265 – 4849 Ext. 1315

## **Dawson County Junior High School**

Mr. Thomy Edwards  
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Mrs. Becca Wilson  
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(706) 265 – 6555 Ext. 1853

## **Dawson County High School**

Mr. Stan Williams  
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265 – 6555 Ext. 1710

Mrs. Tanya Porter (Graduation Coach)  
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Mrs. Tanya Tucker (Counselor)  
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Mrs. Jeanette Higgins (Counselor)  
[students with last name L – Z]  
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